The Florida Aquarium Education Programs Catalog 2021-2022 | flaquarium.org

Innovative STEM programming aligned with Florida's Standards
Visit flaquarium.org for details, or call (813) 273-4015.
Serving the Tampa Bay area since 1983, ESCOT Bus Lines is family-owned and operated.

**PLANNING YOUR TRIP**

- Total group maximums, including teachers/adults, are subject to change throughout the year.
- Due to spacing guidelines and safety, all groups should sub-divide into groups of no more than 10 per group (including an adult).
- Groups should not be combined while touring the Aquarium.
- School programs are available Monday–Friday, September through May.
- Summer programming or weekend options may be available for select programs. Call Reservations at (813) 273-4015 to learn more.
- Maximum program participant numbers reflect the maximum at one time in one room. Many programs can run concurrently in different rooms or can be offered back-to-back to accommodate group sizes.

**CHAPERONE TICKET PRICES:**

- One chaperone is required for every 10 students. Teachers are considered chaperones and are counted in the total chaperone count on field trip day.
- Additional chaperones pay the student admission rate.
- For your group’s convenience and for space considerations, only two teachers are permitted per room into instructor-led programs. If programs are running concurrently in different rooms, each room is allotted space for one teacher. Additional chaperones may tour the Aquarium and/or visit the Aquarium’s Café Ray with the group.
- **Program Schedule, Lunch Options, and Chaperone Guidelines:** Please review your confirmation materials for your field trip day. For your convenience, there are two available registration methods:

  - **Website:** Visit flaquarium.org and click on Education in the navigation.
  - **Phone:** (813) 273-4015 or 1(800) 353-4741 ext. 4015

**CAR PARKING DIRECTIONS**

Cars should proceed to the main parking lot, north of the Aquarium located off York Street. The parking lot opens 30 minutes before the Aquarium opens.

**Bus Parking Options**

- **Bus:** FREE
- **Cars:** $5 per car on field trip day only (discounted school group rate)

**Bus Parking Directions**

Proceed to the drop-off location by the marina statue in the front circle of the Aquarium, off of Channelside Drive. Watch for an Aquarium Team Member to greet your group.

**Bus Parking Directions**

The use of alternate drop-off locations may be required when cruise ships are in port.

Please review your confirmation materials carefully. Call Reservations at (813) 273-4015 to find out if this may affect your group.

**Car Parking Directions**

Cars should proceed to the main parking lot, north of the Aquarium located off York Street. The parking lot opens 30 minutes before the Aquarium opens.

**Admission Prices**

- **Ticket Category:** General Ticket Only
- **All Student Groups:** $10

**Program Prices**

- **Operation Programs, Coral, Shark or Sea Turtle Tours (60 min):**
  - **Mini Program:** $30
  - **Lunch:** $75

- **Operation Programs, Coral, Shark or Sea Turtle Tours (90 min):**
  - **Mini Program:** $40

- **In My Backyard Exploring the Bay (30 min):**
  - **Lunch:** $40

- **Mini Program:** $600

**Program Schedule, Lunch Options, and Chaperone Guidelines:** Please review your confirmation materials for your field trip day. For your convenience, there are two available registration methods:

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PAYMENT METHODS
• Payment for your field trip is required one day before arrival.
• Payment must cover all of the students and additional chaperones in your group. Teachers are considered chaperones and are counted in the total chaperone count on your field trip day.
• Please collect all payments from your group and make ONE SINGLE PAYMENT for your field trip.
• Exploring the Bay Eco-tours require a $100 non-refundable deposit within one week of booking.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT
• Checks: Make checks payable to The Florida Aquarium. Please do not mail ahead for field trip bookings. If you owe not paid in advance please bring the check with you on the day of the field trip.
• Deposits are required for Exploring the Bay Adventures After Dark.
• Purchase Orders (PO): Please bring a copy of the PO on the day of your trip. Groups may not be admitted without a copy of the PO.
• Cash: Made in one single payment.
• Credit Cards: We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

Aquarium annual pass, memberships or discount coupons are not applicable to field trips.

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES
Any changes to your program-including cancellations/postponements, change group totals-must be made by calling (813) 273-4015 or emailing education@Aquarium.org. A voicemail message or email is sufficient for cancellation notice.

Please note: Changes to your group total may affect the number of free chaperones.

FIELD TRIP DAY INSTRUCTIONS
PRE-TRIP PLANNING
• Be sure to meet with chaperones/adults prior to your visit so that expectations are known. A ratio of at least 1:10 is required. Unescorted student groups are not permitted in the Aquarium for the safety of both the students and the animals. Please be sure that chaperones have assigned student groups. More detailed information will be included in your confirmation information.
• If planning to purchase lunch, use the order form in your confirmation information to select your lunch...
• At check-in, if you brought lunches with you, you will select a lunch time. You can select a tentative lunch time prior to check-in.
• Don’t forget your receipt! A map and daily schedules for any presentations can be found in the main lobby.
• If you have pre-ordered lunch at Café Ray, please check in with the Café staff to confirm your lunch order, lunch time, and to make payment. Your group will be served at a designated location by Café staff.
• Return to your group, and confirm program and lunch times with your chaperones.
• Be sure that you have your coolers and other belongings when you leave.

GUIDELINES FOR CHAPERONES
Chaperones are our partner. Studies have shown that chaperones can have a positive influence on student learning while at the Aquarium. Please follow these guidelines to ensure students make the most of their visit.
• Students must remain in chaperoned groups at all times.
• Please be considerate of other visitors in the Aquarium so that everyone has an enjoyable experience.
• For everyone’s safety, we ask that student groups use the stairs instead of the elevator. An elevator is available for guests who are physically unable to utilize the stairs.
• Please teach animals only in the designated areas: Moon Bay in the lower lobby, No Bong Zone in the upper lobby, and Stingray Beach in the Bays and Beaches Gallery. Please also adhere to any “touching time-out” periods that may occasionally be displayed in these areas.
• Group lunch orders must be made in advance; groups will not be allowed to individually purchase lunches in Café Ray.
• Be sure to meet your group, and confirm program and lunch times with your chaperones.

At check-in, the Group Leader will proceed to Guest Services at the entrance to the Main Lobby. Present your Group Information Form and have payment (cash, check, or card) on hand. Please remember to present cash in one single payment. If you have registered for a program, confirm your program times and meeting location.
• Due to space guidelines and safety, if your group arrives early, you may need to wait until your allotted entry time. If your group arrives late, you may be required to reschedule your visit.
• For programs, if your group arrives late, you may not be able to participate in your program. We will make every effort to accommodate your class. However, with multiple programs, this might not be possible. You will not be charged for programs your group doesn’t attend.
• Everyone attending a program will be temperature checked with a touchless temperature scanner and will be required to wear a face mask.
• Maximum number per room will be determined. At least one adult is allowed with the group during a program.
• At check-in, if you brought lunches with you, you will select a lunch time. You can select a tentative lunch time prior to check-in.
• Don’t forget your receipt! A map and daily schedules for any presentations can be found in the main lobby.
• If you have pre-ordered lunch at Café Ray, please check in with the Café staff to confirm your lunch order, lunch time, and to make payment. Your group will be served at a location designated by Café staff.
• Return to your group, and confirm program and lunch times with your chaperones.
• Be sure that you have your coolers and other belongings when you leave.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP:
Tampa Bay Invasives: Let’s Take Back the Bay: One-Day Teacher Workshop

Multiple invasive species are impacting Tampa Bay so join us for a day of learning about this important topic! The day begins at The Florida Aquarium exploring background content and lesson plans followed by an afternoon at a local nature park investigating and removing invasive species. All content provided will align with state standards. Teachers must participate for the entirety of the program to receive the $80 workshop stipend.

This workshop is made available with grant funding from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Space is limited to 20 teachers.

Who: Teachers in grades 6-12 in the following counties (due to grant requirements): Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Polk, and Pasco.

When: Select one day
• Saturday, October 16; 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
• Saturday, October 23; 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
• Saturday, November 6; 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: The Florida Aquarium, Carol and Barney Barnett Learning Center Lab; 701 Channelside Drive Tampa FL, 33602. Enter through the Business Office.

Full capacity is critical to the ongoing availability of grant funding and workshop opportunities. We ask for your cooperation and commitment to this program upon registration. Register today and help us take back the bay!
STUDENT

TEEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
From year-round to summer-only programs, we are proud to provide high school students with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that also support the Aquarium’s mission. In an abundance of caution, we have temporarily suspended some volunteer programming. Visit our website, flaquarium.org, for more information on current options.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
In addition to school programs, The Florida Aquarium offers scout programs, family events, homeschool classes, members’ programs, tots programs, and more. Many of these programs have virtual options as well. Be sure to check flaquarium.org for details, or call (813) 273-4015 for more information.

SCHOOL YEAR AQUACAMPS
When school is out, camp is in! And learning continues! For students of all ages, we feature activities during holiday breaks including single day or multi-days during Thanksgiving, winter, spring, or summer breaks. With a host of camp themes, young learners will have a ‘wild’ time!
ON-SITE

CLASSROOM PROGRAMS
To help ensure student engagement, each program capacity is limited and subject to change. Multiple programs can run concurrently in different rooms or can be offered back-to-back to accommodate group sizes.

IN MY BACKYARD
Grade Levels: PreK-1
Program Length: 40 minutes
Cost: $40 per program
During this instructor-led program, students will visit a series of stations highlighting the diversity of backyard habitats in Tampa Bay. The themed early childhood room encourages hands-on learning through investigation and observation.

OPERATION: SEA TURTLE
Grade Levels: 1-8
Program Length: 60 minutes
Cost: $40
The researchers at Turtle Base Tampa have lost contact with Tango, a female loggerhead sea turtle that was tagged when she was young. Returning to nest on her home beach every few years has provided valuable behavioral and tracking data to help expand our knowledge of sea turtles. Students are challenged to help in the search! Spending time at our conservation outpost, participants will learn about the history of coral reefs, compare corals around the world and discover ways that humans can help corals.

OPERATION: CORAL
Grade Levels: 1-8
Program Length: 60 minutes
Cost: $30
A mad scientist has contacted Turtle Base Tampa in need of help! Coral reefs throughout the Florida Keys are changing at an alarming rate. Students are needed to help discover the culprit. During this mission, participants will learn about the history of coral reefs, compare corals around the world and discover ways that humans can help corals.

OPERATION: SHARK
Grade Levels: 1-8
Program Length: 60 minutes
Cost: $40
Several species of sharks are threatened, affecting the balance of the ocean. Students must help restore balance to the ocean. During this adventure, participants will learn about different species of sharks, where they can be found, how humans and sharks interact, and ways in which humans can help shark populations. Students will use critical thinking and inquiry-based learning strategies to discover challenges that sharks and other creatures encounter.

MINI PROGRAM: CORAL, SHARK OR SEA TURTLE
Grade Levels: 1-8
Program Length: 30 minutes
Cost: $30
Choose between three important and mysterious creatures; coral, sharks, or sea turtles! Students take a quick dive into the selected habitat to learn about challenges faced and how they can help.

Groups must check in 15 minutes before the start of the program.

Programs starting before opening hours will meet at the Business Entrance, behind the manta ray statue, by no later than 15 minutes before the start of their program. Please note that maximum number of teachers and/or aides per room is subject to change.

LAB PROGRAMS
Programs provide inquiry-based STEM learning in a laboratory setting. To help ensure student engagement, each program has a limited capacity.

Multiple programs can run concurrently in different rooms or can be offered back-to-back to accommodate group sizes.

All lab programs are 60 minutes and cost $75.

PLANKTON LAB
Grade Levels: 3-12
Most plankton may be small, but they’ve got a big job to do! Learn about the importance of plankton, and meet live specimens eye-to-eye. Students will spy on the secret world of tiny, living organisms that come straight from Tampa Bay.

SEDIMENTOLOGY LAB
Grade Levels: 3-12
Tiny sand grains started out as something much bigger! Discover geological processes that shape our beaches, and learn how these processes contribute to components and characteristics of our coastlines. Use microscopes to compare and contrast sand from around the world, and learn to read the story told by the grains of sand on a beach.

SQUID DISSECTION LAB
Grade Levels: 3-12
Discover the inner and outer workings of an amazing aquatic creature! Join a knowledgeable instructor for a guided look inside a squid. Students will use dissection tools to investigate their animal with a lab partner.

CLASSIFY THIS! MARINE INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY LAB
Grade Levels: 6-12
Dolphins, sharks, game fishes, and whales often come to mind when thinking about ocean life, but there are so many interesting and important invertebrates that play a vital role in the ocean food web. Using real invertebrates, such as echinoderms and mollusks, students will learn key features that distinguish each phylum and will use a dichotomous key to learn how scientists classify invertebrates. Students will be challenged at the end of the lab to classify a “mystery” marine invertebrate.

INVESTIGATION: SHARK!
Grade Levels: 3-8
Sharks are critical to the health of our ocean, but what do we do when they are in trouble? Through investigation, observation, and critical thinking, students will draw conclusions about what may have happened to a variety of shark species from around the world.
ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS
(GRADE LEVELS VARY, AS NOTED):

EXPLORING THE BAY
Grades: 3-12 and college students
Program length: 75 minutes (boat departs at 10:30 AM)
Cost: $600
Group size: 90 participants max, including chaperones (subject to change)
Board our Bay Spirit II catamaran to see Tampa Bay in a whole new way! Search for dolphins, birds and other aquatic life in their natural habitat. Tours are narrated by an educator.
- Reservations are required and are available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Two-week minimum advance notice is required for all Exploring the Bay reservations.
- US Coast Guard regulations require approved face coverings worn while inside the boat cabin.
- Offered Monday through Friday at 10:30 AM. Weekend options may occasionally be available by calling (813) 273-4015.
- Aquarium admission is not included in the cost of the eco-tour, but can be added for an additional cost.
- A $100 non-refundable deposit is due within one week of reservation. Credit cards or checks are accepted for deposit. Final payment is made on the program day.
- Groups must check-in at least 30 minutes prior to eco-tour departure.
- The Aquarium reserves the right to cancel boat programs due to poor weather, technical difficulties or late group arrival.

ADVENTURES AFTER DARK
Experience the Aquarium after dark. Enjoy a tour through the Aquarium, an evening snack, and other various activities. Reserve your program as soon as possible, a three-week minimum advance notice is required.

Choose 2 activities:
- Behind the Scenes Tour, Squid Dissection, Sea Turtle Rescue, Shark Senses, Corals Alive, Fish ID
- Cost: $38 per person, 1 free chaperone
- Number of guests: Minimum of 15 paying participants, maximum of 40 participants.
- Minimum age: 6 years old
- Arrival time: 6:30PM-6:45PM
- Ending time: ~10:30PM
- A $100 nonrefundable deposit is due within one week of making a reservation.
- Must be booked at least 3 weeks in advance

PLEASE NOTE**Per The Florida Aquarium COVID-19 policies, all guests are required to wear a mask. We will also conduct a touchless thermometer check upon arrival. If there is a temperature reading of over 100°F, we will ask that the individual return home for the safety of all staff and participants.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS
We continue our mission to educate and inspire stewardship of the natural environment by offering engaging virtual programs for students of all ages. If you are unable to visit the Aquarium in person, we invite you to check out the variety of virtual programs available and schedule your unique experience today.

Visit the Education tab on our website, flaquarium.org, for more information.

PROGRAMS

SQUID DISSECTION
Duration: 45 minutes | Cost: $175 per class
Discover the inner and outer workings of an amazing aquatic creature! Join a knowledgeable instructor for a guided look inside a squid. Students, in small groups, will use dissection tools to investigate their animal with a lab partner while an Aquarium instructor appears virtually. This program requires special arrangements.

CUSTOM PROGRAM
Duration: 45 minutes | Cost: starting at $100
Contact our Reservations Team at (813) 273-4015 with a topic of theme of your choice. Please provide at least two weeks’ notice for us to develop a program that fits your needs.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE WETLANDS OF FLORIDA/BAYS AND BEACHES
Duration: 30 minutes | Cost: $75
Join an instructor on a guided tour of the Wetlands of Florida and Bays and Beaches galleries. See how many different birds, reptiles, and fishes you can find. Questions about the animals and habitats can be submitted via the chat option.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE CORAL REEF/WAVES OF WONDER
Duration: 30 minutes | Cost: $75
Join an instructor on a guided tour of the Coral Reef and Waves of Wonder galleries. See how many different species of fishes and invertebrates you can spot. Questions about the animals and habitats can be submitted via the chat option.

TOUR OF ALL FOUR
Duration: 60 minutes | Cost: $125
Join an instructor on a guided tour of Wetlands, Bays and Beaches, Coral Reef and Waves of Wonder galleries.

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS
Duration: 30 minutes | Cost: $50 per class
Meet a variety of The Florida Aquarium's animal ambassadors in this informal education program. This program is a great option for large groups or groups with a wide age range. A variety of terrestrial creatures will make an appearance!
MISSION STATEMENT
To entertain, educate, and inspire stewardship of the natural environment.

The Florida Aquarium offers a variety of educational programs including school programs, teacher workshops, virtual programs, homeschool workshops, and more. Our Education Department is growing to meet the needs of our community. For education program reservations and information call (813) 273-4015 or 1-800-353-4741 or visit flaquarium.org.